

Helping Joplin – the Florissant Way

In July, a number of people in the Florissant area decided it was time to “Help Joplin.”

This effort was lead by three Florissnat Councils in Florissant (#2951 – St. Phillippine Duchesne, #11635 – St. Norbert, and #11778 – St. Angela Merici). Alex Meyers of the Duchense Council gave the idea to Christine “Chris” Herbert. Chris took the reins. During her drive to the State Conference and District Deputy meeting, Chris called her employer (Salvation Army) and the Mayor of Florissant, MO, Tom Schneider.



In Jefferson City, Chris received the return call from Mayor Schneider. He was in favor of the idea and promised the support of the City of Florissant. Mayor Schneider named Police Chief Bill Karabas as the City’s focal point. In addition, the Florissant Valley Fire Protection District’s Chief Robert Corey provided support and assistance. A core team of volunteers from the sponsoring organizations oversaw the entire operation of advertising, collection, packing, and shipping. The core team met on numerous occasions to plan and coordinate the activity.



Advertising was prepared for the local media, the local parishes/churches, and hand-carried to many business and organizations. The drop-off points were set at three locations in Florissant on Saturdays, August 6, 13, and 20. The final collection and packing of the boxes was set for August 24, 25, and 26. The pallets were loaded onto Con-way Freight Pup Trailers. Originally, it was hoped that the effort would fill one 53’ trailer. The end result was

filling three 28’ pup trailers.

The trailers left for Joplin on the evening of August 26 with Con-way Freight drivers pulling the loads. They arrived Saturday morning (August 27) in Joplin at the Salvation Army’s Storage Facility. A number of pallets were destined for Catholic Charities of Joplin. The Con-way drivers graciously took a trailer with those pallets over to Catholic Charities of Joplin, where the Knights of Columbus in Joplin unloaded the trailer.

This month long collection, packing and shipping of supplies for Joplin was supported by the three Florissant Knights of Columbus councils, the parishes and other churches in the area, the City of Florissant, and many local businesses. Organizations and businesses provided volunteers, equipment to pack/load the trucks, and items/supplies. The local restaurants/shops provided food for the workers on the 10-12 hour days of the final packing.



This was truly one Community reaching out to assist another Community.

SUBMITTED BY: Matt Gray, DD #34 and Ken Schmalbeck, DD #36